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Nation

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The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

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editorial

David Ahenakew: protector of Native values or blithering fool?

By Steve Bonspiel

David Ahenakew, the former Assembly of First Nations Chief, is making headlines in a trial that has some Native people hanging their heads in shame.

Ahenakew has been testifying in Saskatchewan court after being charged under the Criminal Code with spreading hatred against Jews. His off-the-cuff remarks were made when he was a Federation of Saskatchewan Indians Senator in December 2002. Some of the racist comments include:

"The Jews damn near owned all of Germany prior to the war. That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure that the Jews didn't take over Germany or Europe. How do you get rid of a disease like that, that's going to take over, that's going to dominate?"

"That's why he fried six million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the God damned world. And look what they're doing. They're killing people in Arab countries."

Then, during his trial on April 7, he tried to turn the focus onto the Canadian people, much to the chagrin of Natives everywhere:

"Thousands and thousands of Canadian people – they should be here answering questions about hatred toward the Indians."

While there is truth to this statement, its validity is weakened when it's used to cover a lie. Consider this:

"I'm a holocaust victim," Ahenakew shouted under cross-examination on the final day of his trial. "We lost over 100 million people over the last 500 years."

Don't get me wrong, obviously we've suffered one injustice after another over the years, but is spewing hatred upon the Jews going to change that? It was a poor attempt at deflecting the attention away from himself and onto others. He chose the wrong time to highlight the pain and suffering of Native people.

Then, on April 11, brainiac Native leader Terry Nelson of Manitoba's Roseau River First Nation added his two cents worth when he claimed that media coverage of the trial would promote hatred against Jews by Native people in Canada. He so eloquently stated that "Natives are killing whites now; soon they will be killing police officers on a regular basis."

These comments are irresponsible and shortsighted to say the least. By uttering these death threats, Nelson is basically telling the average person that Natives are crazy and will react with violence when we don't get our way. He's also telling the sometimes easily influenced youth to rebel against authority. He should resign and stay as far away from public office as possible. We can only hope his comments fall by the wayside and aren't acted upon by anyone.

Ahenakew also told Saskatchewan *StarPhoenix* reporter James Parker that it was the Germans and Canadian soldiers returning from Germany who told him the Jews started the Second World War and that they would eventually own the world.

What is this? High school? As a Native leader and someone who has been appointed to the Order of Canada, Ahenakew does not have that privilege of claiming ignorance. If he believed everything people said then he shouldn't have been in a position of leadership to begin with – in any capacity.

Ahenakew is no stranger to controversy. A few years ago he supported terminating the rights of Native women who marry non-native men. Women's groups were not pleased.

In the current case, Ahenakew claims that his medication had been doubled and his blood-sugar levels were high when he made the disparaging comments about Jews. He also said two glasses of wine made matters worse.

Blaming racist, destructive comments on medication and alcohol just doesn't cut it. It's time he took full responsibility for his remarks and stopped making excuses.

I just hope that by prosecuting people like Ahenakew, Canadians remember that these standards should be applied across the board and racist comments against any ethnicity should be taken as seriously as Ahenakew's have been.

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Photo by: David Boily of Taima and Junos
Design: M. Laviolette

rez notes

Take it easy

The days whizzed by into weeks and then months drifted by in a haze of non-stop administrative fervour, numbers crunching into the millions drifted past my screen in the oblivion I call work. Twenty moons circled the earth before my brain told my body to stop before I dropped into the hospital statistics as a helpless, brain-dead mass of flesh.

Yep, I need a vacation, something I hadn't had since time immemorial. I look at fellow Cree workers with envy and their 50-something days per year of vacation, then the statutory days and to top it all off, the bi-annual goose breaks. Why can't I get that type of treatment, I wonder? That's because I am a dedicated, hardworking son of a gun, who shirks off weekends in favour of guiding tourists around my pleasant town of Whapmagoostui. I compare taking time off for pleasure as a deadly sin. I prefer to work on something around the house. All this takes some energy, of which I have little left in reserve.

I wrote a letter to my boss, requesting a week off, in Montreal no less, and the response was in my favour. Yahoo, I'm off for a week in the largest sin city in Canada with nothing to do but have fun. My body concurred with my decision to stop work, until my cell rips out some rap tune and another boss calls, ordering me back to work for the next two hours. I slowly tear out a few more strands of precious hair and begrudgingly meet the deadline.

Working hard is something that Crees did every day, working real Indian hours, sunrise to sundown, so work for me in an office setting never really felt like hard work. It is more like a week-long effortless activity for someone who was used to hard (slave) labour, except with pay. I remember one year, where I pressured my body and mind to the limits, so far that my left eye ceased to function and all turned into a sunless grey vision. Worriedly, I asked the doctor to calm down my secretary and reassure her that I wasn't dying, (at least I hoped at that time). The doctor asked me if I had been in the Vietnam War, and I was outraged that I could look that old. "No," I stammered back, now with my heart racing with a touch of palpitation, and then asked, "Why?"

"Because you have what's called 'battle fatigue' and your mind is telling you to stop right now."

Battle fatigue? All I did was to drive from Chisasibi to Ottawa, then to Val d'Or, then to Mistissini and finally back to Val d'Or in three days, without sleep. What's so bad about that? After being forced to stay in a hotel room with strict orders not to leave for at least two days I resigned myself to the dark room, to slumber for the next 20 hours. After awakening, I remembered who I am and called my buddies just to make sure that it is my real name and return to work, where my secretary gushed out her anxieties that I wasn't able to see the signature on her payroll check that I had just signed, having asked her for a pen that worked. All kinds of thoughts entered her worried mind. What if he couldn't sign the advance request? Who will sign the checks in the future?

After an experience like that, I vowed that I would never push my physical and mental limits so far again and I realized that I was walking down the path that leads to the graveyard. I am now forever grateful for the Cree system of vacation, long weekend, every statutory holiday in North America and a few other Cree-inspired reasons not to work so hard and so long.

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Canada

CHISASIBI KIDS PART OF VIDEO PILOT PROJECT

Linguists say filming the kids in their early years helps to identify discernible patterns

by Steve Bonspiel

Photo courtesy of Darlene Bearskin

Two-year-old Cammi Kitty is the first participant in the study

In an innovative new study, children from Chisasibi are being videotaped as a way to improve the way the Cree language is taught and absorbed at the earliest levels.

The project aims to capture on video the child's most important learning years from ages one to six. After several years, the linguists will be able to paint a picture of the children's progress in their journey towards proper adult grammar and vocabulary.

"We aim to make a record of the status of language development for children who are learning to speak Cree as their first language," said Julie Brittain, a linguist at Newfoundland's Memorial University and the overseer of the project. "There is no in-depth acquisition study for the Cree language yet, so we're hopefully going to be able to record the language development for children from 12 months old and follow them all the way through to six years old."

Marguerite Mackenzie, who has worked on the Cree, Naskapi and Innu languages for over 30 years, is acting as an advisor on the project.

The study began in November 2004 and will run until at least 2007. There are currently only two children involved in the project, but that number will jump to around 12 in the coming weeks.

The children will be separated into two groups, ages one to four and ages three to six.

"Linguists are interested in these types of studies because of how easily children learn languages. When you compare it to adults, children are much more adept at picking up another language," said Brittain.

She added that many studies have been done for first language acquisition, but the Chisasibi Child Language Acquisition Study (CCLAS) is the first of its kind in Eeyou Istchee.

"At Memorial University we work with many languages, including Cree and Naskapi, so for us we thought it'd be natural to secure funding in order to conduct a first language acquisition study. We wanted to find out what strategies children apply when learning long, complicated words."

Brittain said that there has already been a similar study done on the Inuktituk language by linguists at Boston University.

"We want to contribute to the vitality of the Cree language by doing research that has practical applications."

Brittain and her crew, which includes Darlene Bearskin-Kitty, hope that this study will provoke change in how the Cree language is looked at and will result in the first full-time Cree speech therapist.

Bearskin-Kitty, who studied linguistics at McGill University and is a substitute teacher at the school in Chisasibi, is in charge of capturing the process on videotape.

"There are very different rules when learning Cree instead of English, such as the endings of the words," she said. "In English there may be two or three ways to end a word but in Cree there are seven."

Her daughter is part of the project and that was an extra incentive for getting involved. "I'd like to know what my child is learning and what words she uses," said her proud mother.

"When I do the video with the child(ren) I also repeat the word in the correct way of what the child is trying to say. After about an hour of filming I then compress the video so it can be downloaded at Memorial University in St. John's," she said.

She also reiterated Brittain's view that there is a big need for a speech therapist in the communities. "How can they diagnose a speech delay in a child if there are no Cree language speech therapists?"

If all goes well, the project could move to other communities, depending on the level of interest.

To find out more about the project, visit http://arts-srv.arts.mun.ca/cclas/

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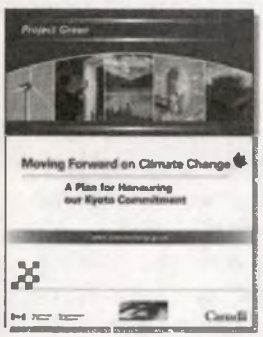

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Andrew Shecapio's body found

Andrew Shecapio's has finally been found.

The body of the man, who has been missing since November, was spotted April 12 in a river in La Sarre after a lengthy search.

An autopsy in Montreal, which could take several weeks, will determine the cause of death.

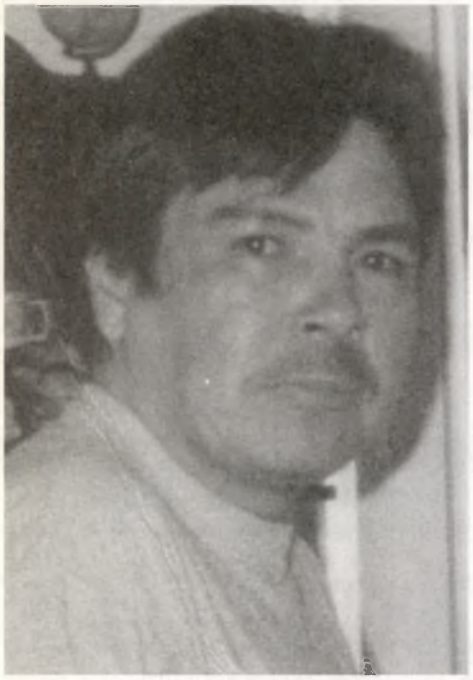

Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Bosum

Andrew Shecapio

Shecapio was a prospector who worked for Geosig in Ville Bois for 20 years. He was last seen there November 25.

Accused drunk driver opts for trial by jury

Irene Pepabano, charged with seven different counts including three counts of operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol causing death, has renounced her right to a preliminary inquiry.

She is facing charges in a drunk driving incident that took the lives of three people in Chisasibi in June 2003.

"While she is on the list (for trial) she can ask at anytime to be brought back before the court to plead guilty," said Crown Prosecutor Christian Leblanc. "If she doesn't, the trial could go as soon as the fall, or up to as late as the spring."

EM-1 murder trial set to begin

Emmanuel Blacksmith is now awaiting trial by jury after renouncing his right to a preliminary inquiry April 14.

Blacksmith, 21, was charged May 21 with the second-degree murder of 48-year-old Mario Fortin of Chicoutimi after the man was found stabbed outside a bar at the EM-1 hydroelectric project.

"His file has been added to the list that is awaiting dates for a jury trial," said Christian Leblanc, the Crown Prosecutor on the case. "There is a possibility that a settlement will be made before it gets to trial, but I cannot say that for sure."

Leblanc said that in many cases when a person renounces their right to a preliminary inquiry, it's an indication that a deal might be worked out with the Crown.

Blacksmith broke two of his conditions for release in late March. He violated his curfew by being in Waswanipi after 11 pm, and police also caught him with alcohol on his breath. Because of these two breaches, he went to jail for a week and a half until his most recent court appearance.

He could wait up to a year for a trial date. In the meantime he has been released to his parents under strict conditions. Despite the serious charges against him, he is not considered a risk to the community.

0-J police officer takes own life

Ouje-Bougoumou Police Officer Henry Wapachee was dead at his house in Chibougamau on April 4.

"The SQ investigating officer determined that it was a suicide," said Ouje-Bougoumou Police chief George Gunner. "It's very hard for us (to deal with). It's a good thing we have other officers from other communities like Mistissini, Waswanipi, and Nemaska to cover up for us so the regular officers can cope with the grieving."

Gunner says officers at the detachment decided to have the inside of the police station repainted to start another year with a different atmosphere. "It's not easy for us, he was a great loss

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"(Stay) Quit to Win Challenge", Eeyou Istchee

WINNERS

Adult Challenge

1. **Sarah Natawapineskum** of Wemindji wins 2 return air tickets to Montreal, plus 2 nights in a hotel sponsored by Air Creebec & Hotel du Fort
2. **Shirley Chiskamash** of Chisasibi wins $1,000 sponsored by Health Canada
3. **Tina Matthews** of Chisasibi wins $500 sponsored by James Bay Eeyou Corporation

Adult Runner up

Each of these people wins $200 sponsored by the Band Councils of Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui and Nemaska, and Health Canada.

- Sinclair Gilpin - Whapmagoostui
- Valerie Sam - Chisasibi
- Danny Tomatuk - Wemindji
- Robert Gilpin - Eastmain
- Christine Robert - Nemaska
- Leona Bosum - Ouje- Bougoumou
- Philip Shecapio - Mistissini
- Monique Mianscum - Waswanipi

Youth Challenge

1. **Vanessa Longchap** of Waswanipi wins $1,000 sponsored by James Bay Cree Communications Society & Health Canada
2. **Whastustkoon Margaret Danyluk** of Wemendji wins $750 sponsored by Health Canada
3. **Clayton Sealhunter** of Chisasibi wins $500 sponsored by Creeco & Compensation Board

Youth Runner up

Each of these people wins $200 sponsored by the Band Councils of Chisasibi, Whapmagoostui and Nemaska, and Health Canada.

- Travis Mamianskum - Whapmagoostui
- Ryan Kawapit - Whapmagoostui
- Marty Matches - Wemindji
- Cayce Mark Stewart - Eastmain
- Stephane Trapper - Nemaska
- Karen Gull - Waswanipi
- Amelia Dixon - Ouje Bougoumou
- Annette Daisy Trapper - Mistissini
- Lenora Angatookaluk - Chisasibi

School Challenge

1. **Luke Mettaweskum School** of Nemaska wins the Gold cup & $2,000 sponsored by Hydro Quebec
2. **Waapihtiiwewan School** of Ouje Boujoumou wins $1,000 sponsored by Health Canada

Community Challenge

1. **Whapmagoostui** wins the Gold cup & $2,000 sponsored by GCC & CRA
2. **Waswanipi** wins $1,000 sponsored by Health Canada

FINAL STATISTICS

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) organized the first regional "(Stay) Quit to Win Challenge" (from March 1, 2005 – April 11, 2005) to promote smoke-free lifestyles. Final entry data for the various Challenges are as follows:

- 276 people aged 18 and more entered the Adult Challenge (131 [48%] were smokers who have pledged to quit smoking for at least the 6 weeks of the Challenge; 145 [52%] were non-smokers);
- 325 people aged 8 to 17 have entered the Youth Challenge (145 [45%] were smokers; 180 [55%] were non-smokers);
- 6 of the 9 schools entered the School Challenge (designed to promote awareness about tobacco and smoke-free lifestyles among students and staff);
- 2 of the 9 communities in Eeyou Istchee entered the Community Challenge (designed to get the whole community involved in promoting smoke-free living).

"Smoking really has a strong hold on people who are not aware of its effects and the harm it can do. People may think it's a way of life or a norm as young people see their parents or those around them smoking. However, through awareness and educating the people about the effects of tobacco, many are considering or wanting to quit. I'm so pleased to see the number of people who took up the challenge.. Of course, support is available as we have trained smoking counselors for our smoking cessation program," said Ron Shisheesh Program Officer at CBHSSJB.

"To see that over 600 hundred people in the region entered the Challenge is very encouraging. Almost half of them are smokers who agreed to quit for at least 6 weeks. Smoking causes so much preventable disease and death; we really need to tackle it," said Manon Dugas, Director of Uschiniichissuu Team.

Why launch the Quit to Win Challenge in Eeyou Istchee?

According to the 1991 Santé Quebec survey, 77% of Cree youth, aged 15-24 years old were regular or occasional smokers. More recent data, from 2001, show that 8 out of 10 pregnant women smoke. Among all Eeyouch 15 years of age and over, 53% smoke. This is more than twice the general Quebec rate of 24%.

The average age for students to smoke their first whole cigarette is 11 years old.

"It is scary to see that we have such high numbers of smokers, and the early age youth start smoking. It is time that people become more aware of what smoking can do to their health. We would like to see the Crees go smoke-free and proud to be Crees," said Ron Shisheesh.

The Challenge started March 1, 2005 and ended April 11, 2005.

Contact: Ron Shisheesh, Program Officer (819) 855-9001 ext: 5362

THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSOR AND COLLABORATORS!

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not only for us but to the whole community, and he was well known by other officers from other Nations."

Henry left a wife and two boys.

Residential School victims need new claims system

Residential school survivors might be in for a nice surprise, according to the Montreal Gazette.

"Parliament has narrowly accepted a report that recommends the government kill its controversial program for victims of residential school abuse and send it to the auditor-general for an investigation," said the report, by Sutton Eaves of the Canwest News Service.

It went on to say that a 12-member commons committee found that the government has resolved fewer than 10 per cent of cases that have come before it, despite the hefty cost of $600 million.

"More than 1,267 former students applied for compensation between November 2003 and February of this year, while only 79 had hearings. Less than $1 million was awarded," the story said.

It also said that because of lawyer fees and administration costs, the Indian Residential Schools Resolution invests 80 per cent of its spending in bureaucracy.

Minor's murder trial set for fall

A 17 year-old Waswanipi youth has waived his right to a preliminary inquiry and will prepare to stand trial for murder in a few months.

He is currently being held in a Val d'Or youth detention centre after he was charged with first-degree murder.

His file will be called July 6, during which the crown prosecutor and his defense lawyer will set a date for the trial, most likely in the fall.

The youth was charged with the murder of 29-year-old Junior Morin on New Year's Day in Val d'Or.

Former AFN head Ahenakew testifies in court

David Ahenakew, the disgraced former Assembly of First Nations Chief, is at it again.

This time he used the courts as a platform to have his voice heard. "Thousands of Canadian people – they should be answering questions about hatred towards Indians," he testified.

Ahenakew is being charged in Saskatchewan court under the Criminal Code with spreading hatred towards Jews. He faces six months in jail if convicted.

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Michel Létourneau
Député d'Ungava

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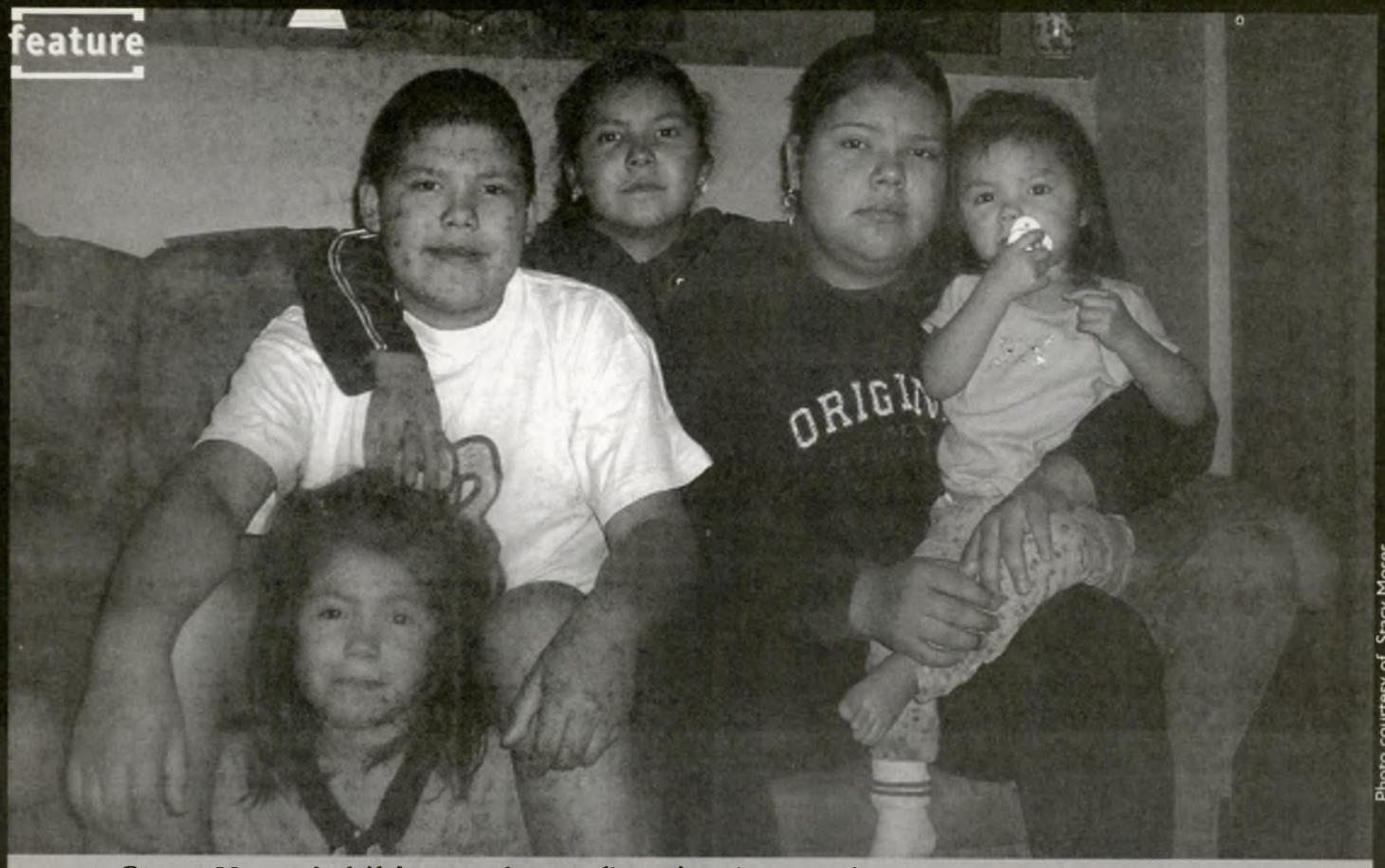

Photo courtesy of Stacy Moses

Stacy Moses' children at home (l to r) Krisanne (5, bottom left), Jerome (11), Kristy (9), Chantal (14) and Krystelle (2).

WHEN CREE ADOPT CREE:

The adoption story of Waskaganish's Stacy Moses

By Steve Bonspiel

Adoption is one of those topics that no one wants to talk about. When the word comes up, people tend to shy away from it. Stacy Moses, on the other hand, wants her story to be told to the Cree Nation.

Stacy, now 32, was adopted at the age of 3 from the Plains Cree reserve of Piapot in Saskatchewan. It wasn't until she moved out from her adopted parents' home in Waskaganish with her husband that she began to search for her biological parents in earnest.

"It took me over a year to find them," said Stacy. "I finally got a phone call one day and it was the social worker in Regina. She told me that my dad was on the other line, so we did three-way calling. That was in 1990."

As joyous as the telephone reunion was, it also came with sad news. Her mother had passed away a few years before, the result of living on the street for the latter part of her life.

> "I wish that he would be more in contact with me. Right now we only speak once a month."

"He said that she was living on the street and that she died of a drug overdose. He tried to get her off drugs, but she wanted to be on the street so he left her," she said.

"When I first talked to my dad, I didn't know what to say and I didn't want to believe it. I thought it was just a phone call and that maybe somebody was trying to play a prank on me. But when he finally said my name and my brother's name, I believed him."

She has only seen one photo of her dad and has no idea what her mom looked like.

"I wanted to visit him so I wrote a letter to the band for financial support for me and my family to go out there and visit. But it was refused. That was last year. I wanted to go visit my mom's resting place and I wanted to see my relatives. You never know what can happen. I could pass away tomorrow."

Even though she found her father after so many years, Stacy wishes there could be a little more interaction.

"I wish that he would be more in contact with me. Right now we only speak once a month, and I find that he doesn't really care. He's my dad and I searched for him for over a year and I was so thrilled to talk to him over the phone. We talked almost every week and then it slowed down. I want him to see his grandchildren."

Stacy said that one of the reasons her father can't visit is because they live so far away from each other. She also notes that her dad is a drifter, moving from place to place with little thought for what he leaves behind.

"I found out I was adopted when I moved to Waskaganish. I was about 7 or 8. I knew because people started to tease me. They'd say 'those aren't your real parents; they're just taking care of you.' I never questioned my adoptive parents but I knew that they weren't my real parents."

Stacy said she wasn't really bothered by knowing she was adopted. She did however catch herself thinking about what might have been.

"It didn't really affect me that much. I wonder now where I'd be if they didn't adopt me. Would I be the same as my mom was, living on the street? Where would I be if I wasn't here? Would I still be alive? That's what I think about."

One thing that's been hard, she says, is being accepted by the community, even after living there for almost 25 years.

"I feel a bit left out from the community sometimes. I'm not working and don't have a full-time job. Sometimes I wonder if it's because I'm not from this town," she said.

> "But it's hard being adopted. Sometimes I feel suicidal, that I don't want to be here."

Stacy and her husband Kirby struggle at times to raise their five children, ranging in age from 2 to 14. His job as a carpenter is dictated by the season.

Despite this, she said she would entertain the idea of adopting. "Sometimes I think that I'd like to adopt. I spoke to social services about the process and they explained to me the steps we have to go through. I'm sure my kids will accept a child no matter where it's from."

Stacy told *the Nation* that it's hard being adopted, despite the love she felt from her parents. "My adoptive parents made sure it was a loving household and they took care of us and loved us like their own kids," she said.

"But it's hard being adopted. Sometimes I feel suicidal, that I don't want to be here. But I stop because of my kids and my family. They need me. What's going to happen if I wasn't here?

Stacy Moses

Photo by Chantal Moses

"I see a counselor about these issues. I also talk to my husband because he understands me. I tell him that 'I'm glad I married you because you're there to understand me.'"

In all, Stacy has four siblings. Adopted along with Stacy was her biological brother Donnie. Two of her other siblings, Andrew and Christa, were adopted from North Battleford, Saskatchewan. John Paul is the only one who was not adopted.

"Someday I wish that I could go to the reserve where I'm from and visit there to see my aunts, uncles and relatives. They said when I come that they'll have a big ceremony for me. I can picture it in my mind and I think to myself am I going to cry? Am I going to break down?

"I just want to bring my family there before something happens to them or to me. I'd also like to see my mother's resting place. I haven't even seen a picture of her. Sometimes it hits me and I wish she was here to hug or to talk to. I miss her."

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REGISTRATION FOR ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 25:
- ☐ Business to business meetings

Thursday, May 26:
- ☐ 2:00 p.m. - Golf at Club de Golf l'Oiselet d'Amos
- ☐ Visitor's Tour
- ☐ 6:30 p.m.- Dinner at Club de Golf l'Oiselet d'Amos

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 25

7h00	Welcoming of participants
8h00	Official Opening (Honorary Co-presidency) Dr. Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Cree Nation, Mr. Ulrick Chérubin, Mayor of Amos
9h00	Mr. Norman Gull, President, Cree Outfitting & Tourism Association - Profile of Cree Tourism in James Bay
9h30	Mr. Jocelyn Carrier, President, Abitibi-Témiscamingue Regional Tourism Association - The evolution of tourism activity in Abitibi-Témiscamingue
10h00	Mr. Roger Wylde, Executive Director, Quebec Aboriginal Tourism Corporation (STAQ) - Aboriginal tourism industry in Quebec
10h30	Health Break
10h45	Mr. Thomas Coon, Director, Cree Trappers Association - Perspective on tourism in James Bay
11h15	Mr. Andrew Coon, Tourism Agent, Mistissini Tourism - Fish Study conducted on Mistassini Lake
11h45	Cocktail
12h00	Lunch
12h15	Mr. Elijah Awashish, President, Osprey Excursions - Osprey Excursions tourism business and partnership development Mr. Eric Laliberté, Vice President of operations for Refuge Pageau - The history and activities of the Refuge Pageau
13h45 to 17h00	Workshops: Vision and Strategies (repeated at 15h15) Success Stories (repeated at 15h15) Finding Funding (continued at 15h15)
17h00	Cocktail
18h00	Banquet Dinner Dr. Ted Moses, Grand Chief of the Cree Nation Mrs. Françoise Gauthier, Minister delegated to Tourism - The tourism industry's contribution to the Quebec economy and future perspectives (to be confirmed)
20h00	Cultural presentation

Thursday, May 26

9h00	Mr. Serge Bouchard, Ph.D., Anthropologist, "Aboriginals and commerce from yesterday to today" (to be confirmed)
9h30	Mr. Pita Aatami, President, Makivik Corporation - Nunavik Tourism and its potential (to be confirmed)
10h00	Mr. Major Kistabish, Director of Social Economic Development, Economic Development Service AMIK - "Bercé par l'Harricana"
10h30	Mr. Olivier Allenbach, ECOaventures - A summary on ECOaventures
11h00	Health Break
11h15	Plenary /Workshop secretaries
11h45	Cocktail
12h15	Closing Lunch The Honourable Charles Lapointe, Chairman, Canadian Tourism Commission (to be confirmed) The Honourable Jacques Saada, Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada (to be confirmed) Closing Ceremony (Honorary Co-presidency) Dr. Ted Moses and Mr. Ulrick Chérubin
14h00	Golf Activity, Club de Golf l'Oiselet d'Amos or visitor's tour
18h30	Dinner - Club de Golf l'Oiselet d'Amos

Taima wins Juno

By Steve Bonspiel

Taima is flying high after bringing home the Juno award for Aboriginal Recording of the Year. Elisapie Isaac and Alain Auger make up the multiethnic duo that won the award for their self-titled debut album. It was presented at the annual Saturday night gala at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, on Saturday, April 2.

"I was happy and excited when we won the Juno," said Isaac. "I was really proud standing next to all the great Native artists who were nominated. I was also proud of their work."

Isaac told *the Nation* that they've received a lot of support from Quebec. "It's very, very nice to have the support from the province of Quebec and nice to get the acknowledgement from the industry," said Isaac. "It was flattering and I'm proud of the accomplishment!"

Their name – which means, loosely translated, "Enough! It's over, let's move on" – certainly rings true as they hope to move on from this win to bigger and better things. "We're booked for another year in Quebec and throughout Canada," Isaac notes.

After success at the mammoth Glastonbury Festival in England, Taima still remembers where they come from. "Our main goal is to establish an audience in Canada, it's very important to us," she said.

The other nominees included Cree singer/songwriter **Wayne Lavallee**, for *Green Dress*, *Kashtin* alumni **Claude McKenzie**, *for Pishimuss*, Six Nations, Ontario blues band *Pappy Johns Band* with **Murray Porter**, for Full Circle, and the mellow half of the *Kashtin* duo **Florent Vollant**, for *KATAKu*.

The beginnings of Taima are described on their website:

"Folk music, for the unparalleled emotions and beautiful sense of intimacy it carries, strongly attracted Elisapie. Her interest in this genre revived her singing ambitions, pushed her to write songs and to seek a musician who would add dimension to her words. In July, 2000 she found Alain Auger."

The multi-talented Isaac won another award of a different colour in 2001. She took home the Fourth "First Nations Filmmaker" Award presented by the National Film Board of Canada that allowed her to direct *Sila piqujipat (If The Weather Permits)*, a short film that premiered worldwide in March 2003.

At press time, Taima was slated to play Nunavik and Iqaluit, return to Montreal for a bit and then hit the Gaspe for another concert.

Elisapie Isaac and Alain Auger

Photo by Bernard Fougere

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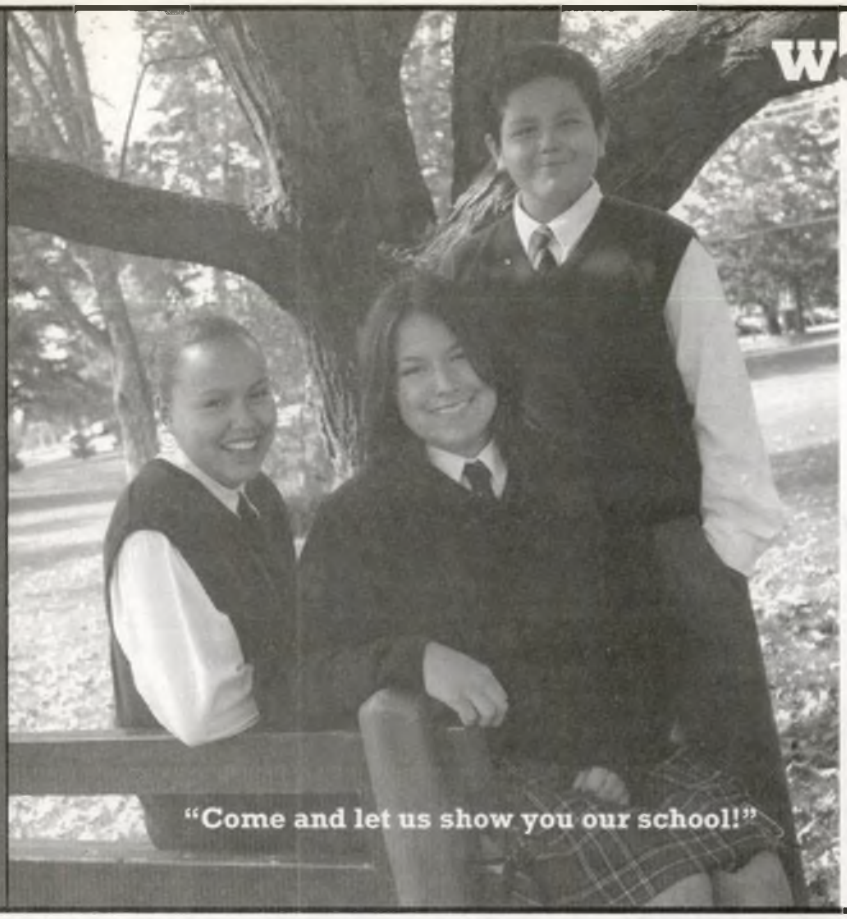

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HOW DOES SUICIDE AFFECT YOU?

by Norman Fireman

In this issue the Nation asked people about suicide, how it affects them or the Cree Nation.

Lillian M.H. Angatookaluk, Chisasibi: Life is very important! Suicide causes great pain to loved ones who are left behind. Our creator has given us great wisdom to look forward to and accept his blessings. The creator has given us the power to transform us, to teach us and to make us into better people, but only if we see our creator's blessing during our crisis, then we realize that even in the darkest moments of our lives, we are deeply loved and abundantly loved by our creator.

Taria Coon, Mistissini: Suicide affects everyone. There's always that question, why? It always goes back to family situations. When we talk about teenage suicides, there's something happening within the family. The parents are the key players in the household. If there's trouble involved with the couple, of course the parents won't be able to support their children in the way they should. Usually the parents are the security in the family. If the children feel insecure who are they going to turn to? And what usually happens is they turn to alcohol or drugs. It's only when we face a crisis that people will support one another, but we should be supporting one another all the time though not to the point of meddling. Another thing is, where I work at youth protection, there are a lot of reports of attempted suicide. The youth talk about seeing or hearing supernatural beings; it's kind of eerie! Even when they're not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, it's very strange. I've spoken to a few church groups and also Elders and they're saying that the youth are experiencing spiritual warfare. It is getting very strange.

Caroline Jolly, Nemaska: I don't believe it only affects the youth. The whole Cree Nation is facing a crisis. We need to deal with this crisis as a nation. This has to stop; we need to work together as a nation in order to deal with this issue. But I'm glad the C.R.A. together with the Cree Health Board and the Cree School Board; are going on the community tours. It's only the beginning and that was very awesome. And I would like to see more of that happening to deal with this suicide issue and that the healing process must never be allowed to stop.

Kenneth Tanoush, Nemaska: Many of us are affected in different ways. Almost every month in Cree territory, we hear about another suicide. What can the leadership do about this problem? They should focus on human development the way they do on material development. You can live in a beautiful house and still be miserable inside a community. Everywhere you see people who don't even know who they are. Academic achievements are decreasing; drugs and alcohol are flowing all over the Cree Nation. We could start admitting the problem. Some live just to see another day. What if that day was the last time you see your friend, a mother, a father, a brother, and a sister? Physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually, we are all equal as one with different dreams and different wisdom. If you help others and yourself, you will conquer it.

Minnie Masty, Whapmagoostui: We experienced two suicide incidents here in Whapmagoostui on the Cree side. It really hurt a lot of people and one of the kids was only 13 years old. In the past we never experienced these problems. It was really hard for the youth especially and everybody else because it happened so suddenly and we didn't really know how to deal with suicide problems. It's hard to think where to turn to, because it's something very new in the community. It's not only the youth but adults, too. All we can do is to give them support. When people do come and talk about their problems, it always goes back to past different types of abuse, be it sexual abuse or something else. The only way we can start to heal is by coming out in the open and talking about it.

Kathleen Neeposh, Nemaska: In August 1993, we had our first suicide in the community of Nemaska. I had been working for the Cree Board of Health and Social Services for five years and didn't have much experience in working with people who were suicidal. The young man who committed suicide that day in August had been a client. He had often come to my office to talk, generally about some of the problems he was going through. The day I heard he had committed suicide, I didn't know what to think. I can still distinctly remember thinking "No, not him. Why?" I was devastated, because not only had I known him as a client but also as a friend. There were many things that went through my mind that day, remembering I had just seen him the day before, at precisely 5 pm. He had an appointment with one of the visiting professionals. As he came in for his appointment, I had asked him, "Are you going to be okay, do you want me to be there with you for support?" I can still hear his words as he headed downstairs, as if were yesterday. "No, Kathleen. I'll be fine. I will see you

continued on page 17

Healthy Living

Nourish the body and stimulate the senses with Healthy Living recipes!

Many people in Eeyou Istchee have Diabetes, or know of someone who does. Quite often this can be someone they love. We know that healthier food choices are important, but let's face it, sometimes they can border on boring. Well, not anymore! Each issue of *the Nation* will feature a delicious meal that keeps in mind the importance of health maintenance but does not forget rich and hearty satisfaction.

Vanilla Cake with Blueberry Sauce

Cake ingredients:

1/2 cup	low sodium margarine	125 ml
3/4 cup	dry sugar substitute	175 ml
2 tsp	vanilla extract	10 ml
1/3 cup	egg whites	75 ml
2 cups	cake flour	500 ml
2 tsp	baking powder	10 ml
2 tbsp	powdered milk	30 ml
1/2 cup	lukewarm water	125 ml

Sauce ingredients:

3 cups	unsweetened fresh or frozen blueberries	750ml
3 cups	water	750ml
2 tbsp	cornstarch	30 ml
1 tbsp	lemon juice	15 ml
1 tbsp	salt-free margarine	15 ml
1/2 cup	dry sugar substitute	125 ml
1/4 tsp	salt	1 ml

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine blueberries and water in a saucepan, cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Drain the juice into a large glass bowl and set aside. Place drained blueberries and cornstarch, along with 1/2 cup of the blueberry juice, in a food processor and blend until smooth. Combine blended mixture with remaining juice in a saucepan, and cook, stirring, until thickened. Remove from heat and add lemon juice, margarine, dry sugar substitute, and salt. Stir until margarine is melted. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together the margarine, sugar substitute, and vanilla extract. Add the egg whites and beat well. In a separate small bowl, mix together with a fork the flour, baking powder and dry milk. Add the dry mixed ingredients to the large bowl and mix thoroughly. Add lukewarm water and beat well. Place the batter in a 9"x 9" square nonstick cake pan and bake for 30 to 35 minutes. Place on a wire rack to cool, then cut into 2-inch squares. Drizzle blueberry sauce on squares just before serving.

NUTRITIONAL ANALYSIS PER SERVING (ONE SQUARE):

Calories: 83.8, Fat: 3.53 g, Carbohydrates: 12.5 g, Sodium: 73.2 mg, Protein: 2.21 g, Fibre: .302 g, Cholesterol: 0 mg, Sugar: 0 g.

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continued from page 15

tomorrow, okay?" That tomorrow never came, for he ended his life the next day. This suicide affected me in more ways than one. I used to question myself, "Did I miss something he was trying to tell me; could I have done more to help him or prevent this tragedy?" The point to this sad story is that when someone you know or have been close to takes their life, it affects us a lot. We shouldn't blame ourselves. We never know what the person is thinking or planning. For those who have thought of suicide or may even have contemplated it, consider this: suicide is not the answer to one's problems. You leave behind loved ones in turmoil who will live with it. Instead, please talk to someone who you trust, let the person know what is happening. That someone might just make a difference.

continued from page 9

Some of the comments that landed him in hot water while speaking to Saskatoon *StarPhoenix* reporter James Parker two years ago included calling Jews a "disease" and expressing support for the fact that Hitler "fried" six million of them during World War Two.

He later recanted, blaming medication, blood sugar levels and two glasses of wine.

"I didn't want this to happen, but it happened," he told the court. "I'm sorry for what I said and I will not do it again unless I'm absolutely forced to." He did not elaborate on what that meant exactly.

He also blamed the reporter for misleading him. "He interrupted me, kept asking me questions," he said. "He just kept on getting me angry and he knew I was angry."

Correction

In the Brief, 'Montreal murder trial postponed,' *the Nation* reported that Mistissini's Linda Shecapio allegedly got into a fight with her boyfriend, Charlie Ekomiak, on October 27, 2004. Ekomiak was not Shecapio's boyfriend.

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For an undetermined period, there will be transportation of wide pieces between Matagami and the Eastmain-1 jobsite. This will considerably disrupt traffic. Each trip will be divided into two parts: from Matagami to Kilometre 274 (intersection with the Route du Nord) and, the following day, from Kilometre 407 to the Eastmain-1 jobsite. On the James Bay highway, the convoy will stop every 30 minutes, and/or as needed, to allow traffic through. However, from the Route du Nord to the Eastmain-1 jobsite, vehicles will not be able to pass the convoy. Hydro-Québec Security will be making sure that everything goes smoothly, several kilometres ahead of the convoy.

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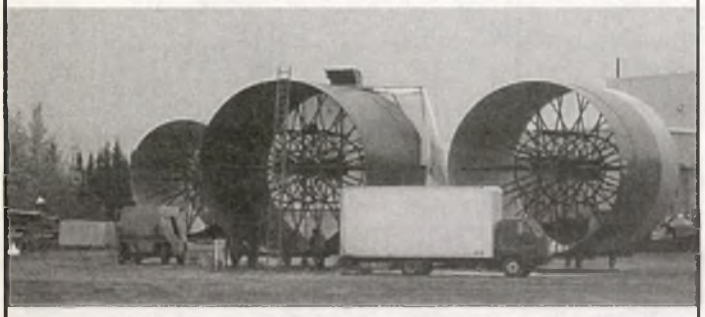

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EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE, BUT WORTH IT

Re: "School board may increase student support," vol. 12, no. 10, April 1, 2005

First I would like to introduce myself. I am an Aboriginal Law and Advocacy student who is sponsored with CSB as well. I am finishing off my last year in my program at Negahneewin/ Confederation College in Thunder Bay, Ontario. I have four children with me and yes, it is hard to live on a fixed income, but I still manage to survive to an extent.

When it comes to entertainment, I can't really go anywhere with my kids. The high cost of living in a city affects me. Living in Thunder Bay is expensive. I have to pay rent, hydro, water, and gas for my place and that really puts a dent in my pocket. It would be nice if CSB does increase financial support. I do know what it's like to have to pay for your medication, dental and eye care, it can really put you in distress.

But I don't blame CSB or CHB for these situations. They do have policies and procedures they follow under the JBNQA. It's the act itself that puts our people in distress when it comes to getting an education outside the boundary that colonized the Crees under the JBNQA.

When the act was signed in the 1970s it came with loopholes or should I say, "read between the lines." The government gave the Crees control over their health, education and economic development – if you stay within the territory.

So there's the thin line. Educate your people, but lose your health benefits. This is where the distress comes into affect. From my understanding, when this agreement was signed it also broke free from the Indian Act that gives Aboriginal people health benefits, but not James Bay Quebec Crees. This is the reason why we don't qualify for health benefits outside the territory.

But we shouldn't give up our education. There are ways to work around these barriers. We need to advocate for our people, ask local pharmacies and dental if they can work something out with CHB. Don't give up your education. I do know for a fact that some local walk-in clinics don't except the Quebec health card. This is another barrier where we have to pay from our own pockets. But most hospitals would take the card.

Being a Cree under the agreement can be a strain at times when it comes to getting an education, but my advice is to never give up your dream just because both governments want the Crees to stay within the boundary of the Act. I had a hard journey to succeed and now I will be graduating this year. Thanks to the Cree School Board for sponsoring me and letting me fulfill my dream outside the territory.

Laura Jonah
Waskaganish
Student in Thunder Bay, ON

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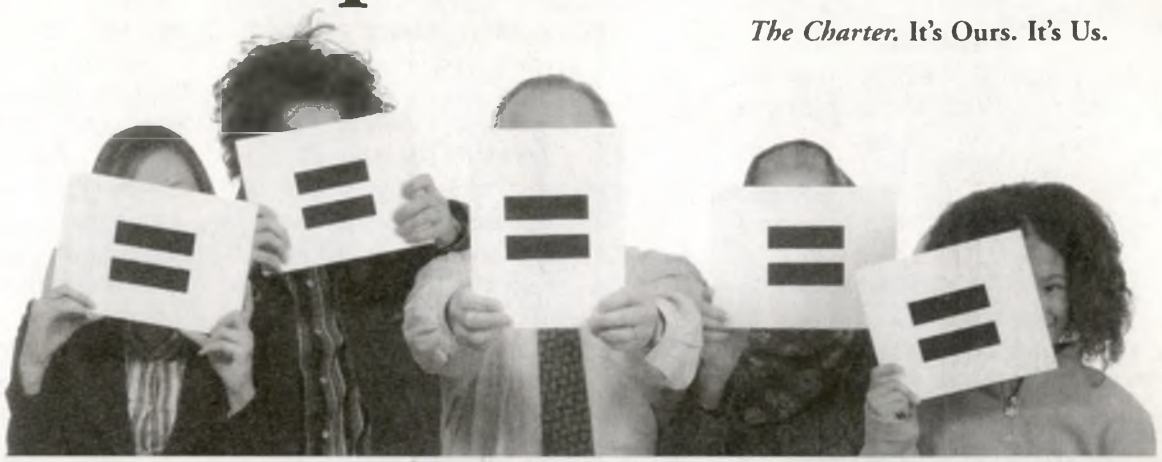

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Who killed the first Goose?

by Norman Fireman

Every year the Nation desparately phones around to see who gets the kudos for killing the first goose in their community. Geese represent the beginning of spring for many Crees. It is also the end of winter and the lean times for trappers living on country food. So here's the list of hunters:

Mistissini's Don MacLeod

Wemindji - Matthew Mayappo killed three geese on April 8th at Kilometre 20 sometime after 3:00 p.m.

Waswanipi - Benoit Gull killed one goose on April 8th at 11:30 a.m., a few hours later Henry Gull killed another goose

Waskaganish - Don Jonah killed the first goose on April 9th at 4:45 p.m.

Washawshibi - Fred Mowatt shot the first goose on the morning of April 9th

Eastmain - Norman Gilpin killed one goose on April 15th.

Nemaska - Eric Cheezo killed one goose on April 16th.

Ouje-bougoumou - Patrick Neeposh killed the first goose on April 16th at 6:40 p.m.

Willie Shecapio Blacksmith allegedly killed a goose two weeks before that, but it was not reported.

Chisasibi - Charlo Coonishish got the first goose on April 16th at LG-1. Paul Georgekish killed another goose the same day

Mistissini - Don McCleod killed the first goose on April 17th at 5:45p.m.

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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Home Sweet Home

by Xavier Kataquapit

There was less snow this year as compared to others and this was an obvious fact to many hunters on the James Bay coast. Normally, goose-hunting season starts in early April and lasts until the middle of May. This year many hunters were disappointed to find out that the hunting season was cut short. Unusually warm weather arrived early this year and melted most of the snow and ice. People are usually happy to see the warm weather, but if the temperatures rise too quickly and too high then that creates problems.

This year, hunters watched the snow in the muskeg and forests disappear over a two-week-long warm spell. The frozen landscape is the only way to travel over the muskeg. In previous years, the weather at least dipped below zero at night but this spring has been very unusual with the temperature hovering above the freezing point even after dark.

Historically, there was always the danger of running into a warm spell but it was rare. It is normal during hunting season for our hunters to navigate the remnants of snow, ice and pools of water to reach home in time before the spring break-up. The danger is that as the weather warms up the ice and snow will disappear and our hunters will be trapped out on the land as it is impossible to come back by snowmobile. It also becomes difficult to keep any of the goose kills fresh as the temperatures rise.

The unusually warm spring was very noticeable to many Elders in my community. This type of event has occurred in the past but it seems to be happening more often with time. One example of changing weather in the north has to do with the freeze-up period. Many Elders remember a time when it was normal to access Akamiski Island on James Bay before Christmas. Now it is considered normal to wait until early January before it is safe to cross the strait to the island.

These changes are not considered gradual or trivial by our Elders and traditional people in the north. These are critical signs that something is wrong. These new weather conditions are making me consider why these changes are taking place in our part of the world up on the James Bay coast. When I did a little research into what the possible causes might be I found out that these changes are also happening in other parts of the world.

Many concerned people, scientists and environmentalists have been talking about global warming for some time. At first, their concerns were thought of as exaggerations and scare mongering but now there seems to be many obvious changes taking place that should make us take them more seriously. There are many reports and examples of how weather patterns are changing in the Arctic. It is said that this sensitive region of the world acts as a barometer for the rest of the globe.

There is great argument amongst many different groups of scientists and politicians. Some say that these changes are a natural part of our world and occur from time to time during the ages. I am no scientist or meteorologist but it seems rather coincidental that the steadily rising temperatures in our world are occurring during a period of our civilization's greatest and fastest growth in production and development.

When you think about it, there is cause for concern. In the distant past, the world was relatively stable and most of the changes in the air, the water and on the ground were caused by nature. Now with the use of modern machinery and mass production, we are pumping tons of material, gases and chemicals into the air, ground and water. At first we put our trust in the fact that nature would take its course to save us by recycling or decomposing our waste. Now we are starting to notice great tracts of deforestation, problems with waste disposal, smog in our cities and difficulties disposing of dangerous chemicals.

We live in what is considered a small space in the universe and it is all we have. If we lived in a house and we tried to destroy it, this would be considered unthinkable, insane and at the very least irresponsible. So, why do we do continue on a path of production at all costs in the world we live in?

My people on the James Bay coast are still close to the land and we notice the changes that are taking place in our world first hand. It affects us immediately with changes on the land and in the animal and bird populations. Many of our Elders are becoming concerned about the future and I think it is time that we all should start thinking about making the future of our environment a major issue. After all, this is our home.

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CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS - 101

We would like to send a couple of birthday wishes to Josephine on April 17, Hannah on April 18, James on April 20 and willard'sh on April 22, 2005 from Wask and again happy birthday, enjoy your upcoming birthdates.

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to Jessie House Bearskin on March 24, and Jennifer Napash on April 8, 2005, from all of us at the Cultural dept.

We would like to wish a happy ?? birthday to Kimberley Happyjack. Happy birthday and I love you. Many more to come, kimberley. I love you sooooo much. Xoxoxoxoxo, from: your sissy, Eden Happyjack.

I would like to say happy b-day to my niece, Rosie Stephen on April 26, 2005 and also happy 1st birthday to my niece on 04/28/05 and Sarah V. Stewart on 04/29/05. Have fun on your b-day to both of you .. with love from M.M.S. (Wem)xoxoxo

I would like to say happy birthday to my friend and cousin, Lisette Tomatuk on April 17, 2005 (don't drink too much on your b-day) it will be more fun without alcohol, nah? ....love from your cousin Marian (Wem).

We would like to wish happy b-day to Cherish Mist on April 21, 2005 also to (boy) Clayton Shecapio on April 22, 2005, with love from 12 cluster 1 (Wemindji).

I would like to wish a happy birthdy to my mother Ellen Stewart on April 17, 2005. I love you, with love Marian (Wem).

I would like to wish my mommy, Annie, a happy birthday on April 12, 2005. Love you so much, from your son, Jacob (Wemindji).

I would like to wish happy birthday to my sister, Annie Georgekish on April 12, 2005. Have fun on your b-day, take a rest on your special day. xoxoxo with love from your big bro BRG (Wem).

This birthday wish goes out to the cutest, sweetest, kindest gurl I have come to know. She stands 5'6, weights 128lbs, has long beautiful brown hair, shining brown eyes, a sweet smile, a sparkling personnality... and definitly not a morning person...lol... Happy 15th Birthday to none other than Vanessa Etapp-Saganash!! Luv you 4ever and always...so much time!!! From your big mama and all of us at 14 Jackpine...:)

I would like to wish my beautiful daughter, Kimbrley Happyjack, a happy bithday on April 30. Happy birthday Kim and many more to come, and also I love you soooo much and take good care of your kids. Xoxoxoxoxoxoxo From Edna Happyjack

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my best friend Roxanne Cooper on May 9. Happy birthday, Roxanne and many more to come. From: your best friend, Eden Moore.

Happy 4th birthday to my sunshine, Katie Victoria, on April 21. I love you with all my heart. Happy birthday to Norman also. Nellie & Sheldon.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my sister, Ashley Happyjack Moore on May 8th. Happy birthday Ashley. Many more to come and I love you. Xoxoxoxoxo From: your big sister, Eden Moore.

Sending out birthday wishes to my namesake, godson and nephew: Trevor Billy Austin Shecapio. He will be celebrating his 4th birthday on April 30, 2005...I hope you have fun on your birthday ...Don't worry, we'll still have a party in the bush. HAPPY 4TH BIRTHDAY BOYSH !And many more birthdays to come. With all my love: Nancy Shecapio.

I would like to wish a happy ??th birthday to my friend, Sylvanna Weistche on April 30 in Eastmain... Hope you have fun on your birthday. Don't waste it all on booze...lol...Anyways Have fun! Happy Birthday gurl!! From your friend: Nancy Shecapio (Wask).

We want to wish a Happy 68th Birthday to My Mom and grandma Mina Pepabano. Her Birthday is on April 25, 2005. We Love you and miss you and we hope to see you again soon. From Sharon, Philip and your grandchildren, Josephine and Tyler Matoush. Hugs and kisses to you 0X0X0X.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to a very very special person in my life...This person is my God-Mother, Alice Gull. Her Birthday is on April 20, 2005. Happy birthday and I miss you and Ro! Oh yeah save some cake for me...you know I love to eat cake...Yumm...From your good-child...I mean God-Child Deshure...I'm sure Benji says Happy Birthday too!...Bye!

This special bithday greeting goes out to our favorite grandpa Ron Blackned. Hey Joomshoom... When we gonna go drive around in your van again...We miss that! Happy Birthday Joomshoom ..We miss you and we wish we were there for your birthday so we can help you blow out your candles...It must be getting harder to blow them out now...especially that you're getting old now...How old are you Joomshoom?...We don't know how to count that high yet!...Save some cake for us...UMM..We love to eat cake. From your grand-children, Treasure and Benjamin Capissisit all the way from Waswanipi.

I would like to take this time to wish a very special person in my life a happy birthday..This person is my father Ron Blackned...His Birthday is on April 19, 2005...Hey Dad! I just wanted to tell you how how special you are to me and I will always be grateful for all the things you do for me. I love you and I miss you. From your daughter in Waws. Angie! P.S. send down some geese as soon as you start slaughtering them...lol.....Oh yeah....Alice's birthday is on the 20th Y'all.... my bad!

I would like to wish a happy bithday to my burdie Alice Gull from Waskaganish...Her birthday is on April, 2005...Happy birthday gurl and I miss ya! From your homegurl Angie in Waswanipi...P.S Don't party too much...k?...Just a little bit!...lol...Lubb ya!

Happy 1st Birthday for Emery-John Rupert on April 9th, 2005. I'm sorry that I could not be there at your birthday party! I love you, I wish you more birthdays to come. I hope you enjoyed your cake. Love: Granny Patty Snowboy.

I would like to wish a belated birthday to my son Tristan John Snowboy, who celebrated his 7th birthday on April 9, 2005. I love you with all my heart and soul. I wish you more birthdays to come, I hope you enjoy your birthday and gifts. Love always: Patricia Snowboy (Whapmagoostui)

I would like to wish happy birthday to my little sis on May 3rd. To my friend L.M.O, happy belated birthday girl and my friend M.O happy ??th birthday. Many more to come lil sis. From ur big sista and ur friend Caro.

To my cool mom, Liz: Hey mom, I would like to wish you a happy birthday on March 30th. Mom, I love you so much, you've been there for me for all these years. And happy mother's day, ur the coolest mom in the world. From all of us (Anita, Jamie, Caroline, Elisa, Brent and Abraham. Jr)

Happy Birthday to Peter-Jay Icebound Gull, he celebrated his 1st birthday on April 8, 2005. It was a wonderful birthday...you had your birthday cake and your presents and your friends...and your aunts and uncles ..we love you so much and wish you the best in the future. From the Icebound's at 20 Aspen West...love you big boy...:). And also to my grandmother Maria Icebound, she celebrated her birthday on April 10. Sorry I couldn't get you anything for your birthday, my next pay you'll be getting something. Happy belated birthday from all of us at 20 Aspen West...and to my brother who will be turning 18...wow. You're going to be a young adult..sah.. he will be celebrating his birthday on April 22...pay day weekend...uh oh..spend your pay wisely eh kenneth?..:) And last but not least, Russel Stephens (April 23) we haven't forgot about you, Happy Birthday to you too....have a blast...dont party too much...we miss you here at 20 Aspen West...we hope to see you soon...from all of us, Icebound's. Have a safe weekend you birthday boy's...oh and say hi to your little boys too.

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to the following: May 1: Louise Pien, May 2: Sandy Pien and James Chemaganish, May 4: Esther Tooma, May 11: Noah Nabinacaboo, May 17 Jennifer Sandy, May 20: Annie Nattawappio, May 23: Vanessa Pien and Yoan Gregoire, May 26: Loretta Robinson and Lazarus Nattawappio, May 29: Jessica Chemaganish. From Gregory, Mark and Annika Tooma and Joanne Chemaganish from Montreal!

Sending Birthday greetings to my loving sister, Marion Shecapio from Mistissini, she will celebrate her Birthday on May 6, 2005. Don't forget to make a wish when you blow out your candles. And also to my niece Janet Joyce Hester on May 5, 2005. OH YEAH and to my namesake CHARLENE DELLA HESTER from Chisasibi on April 27, 2005. Wishing you A HAPPY BIRTHDAY on your special day. From Linda Moar, NEMASKA CITY.

To my dear baby girl, Elisa Caitleen Icebound: Happy 12th Birthday! I hope you'll have a happy face on ur birthday. SO happy birthday, may ur wishes come true. From: ur cool mom Liz.

Happy belated Birthday to my one and only beautiful sister-in-law, Clara Kanatewat. Her birthday was on April 5th, 2005. Wishing you all the happiness life has to offer and many more birthdays to come. I love you very much! Love from Charlotte.

Sending birthday wishes to my brother, John Steve Kanatewat, all the way to Waswanipi. His birthday will be on April 21. Enjoy your birthday, bro. Please have a sober celebration, so you'll remember it. When is the big day, everyone is asking? Anyway, may you have many more birthdays to come! I love you very much with all my heart, hugs & kisses to you & Sharon. Love, your sister Charlotte.

Sending a Birthday wish to my sister, Josephine Salt Hester, on May 18, 2005. She is now entering to golden years, wow!!! I can't believe she did it, Josephine isn't it exciting. Wow!! I'm so happy for you that you have reached the age of !!! oopss, I better not say it in the Nation. Well, have a great a day at work on your Birthday. Happy Birthday sister. Love always, from Linda Moar, Nemaska.

On April 2nd, my son Joseph Gilpin celebrated his 15th Birthday. Joe: you are my pride & joy!...I love you so much!! Love: Mom (Waskaganish).

We would like to wish our grand-daughter, Mercedes Amber Lynn Tomatuk, a "Happy 4th Birthday" on April 18. May she have lots of fun on her special day. We love you, Hahi. Love Always, grandma & grandpa.

On May 12, a very special little girl will celebrate her 6th birthday. We want to wish her a "Happy Birthday" and many more to come. We want the world to know that we love her with all our hearts, and she is our little angel. Her name is Amanda Kara-Lee Tomatuk. Love Always, grandma & grandpa

Amanda Tomatuk will celebrate her 6th birthday on May 12. Without this little girl by my side, I do not know what I would do. She has been with me through the most difficult times in my life. She comforts me when I am lonely, comforts me when I am sad, shares my tears with me, shares my joy. I love my granddaughter with all my heart and soul, there is nothing I wouldn't do for her. Amanda, I love you, you love me, etc. Love, grandma.

I want to wish my children a "Happy Birthday". My oldest son, Kenneth, will celebrate his birthday on April 19 and my youngest son, Sheldon on April 23 and my lovely daughter, Katherine on April 30. May you have many more birthdays to come.

My baby brother celebrated his birthday on April 7. He wasn't here for his special day and I bet I know where he was, sitting at the Poker Machine all by his lonesome self, trying to hit the sevens on maximum bet. (Just joking) Happy Birthday, bro and many more to come. Remember, on my birthday, you told me I was getting old, what have you got to say for yourself now? Young or old, you will always be my baby brother. I will love you just the same. (Just to save you from embarrassment, I won't write your name or my name, ok?).

On April 26, a friend of mine will celebrate her special day. This friend is very special, she has been with me through good times and bad times. My friend doesn't have big shoulders, but whenever I need a shoulder to cry on, she willingly gives me hers. I have cried on her shoulder so many times and I really appreciate her. I thank the Lord each day, for giving me this special friend. I know she always has tons of work to do each day, yet she always has time for me when I need her. She never judges, but she gives the best advice. This friend is my sunshine on rainy days. So, " Happy Birthday", Daisy Moar, you are a wonderful friend. What would I do without you. Love you, buddy, (by the way, Twill be waiting for the blind or the decoys) (Gloria).

This is for my mother, Katherine Tomatuk. She will celebrate her birthday on April 30. Mom, may you know that you are only woman in my life (at least for now until I am a little older) and I love you. I want to apologize of putting you through a lot while I was going through the "terrible twos", just imagine, in a few months, I will be three yrs old. Are you happy?? On your birthday, mom, play my favorite song, 'FUNKYTOWN" and I will dance for you. Anyways, "Happy birthday" and may your day be special as you are. Love always, Brayden T.

I want to wish a "Happy Birthday" to some special people in my life. My sister, Mercedes, on April 18, my uncle, Kenneth on April 19 and my other uncle, Sheldon on April 23 and my aunt, Katherine on April 30. I also want to send birthday greeting to Dorothy Gilpin Sr. Her birthday is on the same day as I am, May 12. Happy Birthday to you all and many more to come. Amanda Tomatuk.

We would like to say Happy Birthday to Ms. Tammy Trapper in North Bay, on April 15th. Sorry we can't be there to celebrate with you, but we promise to, when you come home. We hope you still had fun blowing out your candles.....lol. Hey! Now you're old enough to go to Chateau Inn....JK lol! And, hello! To our burdie, Ms. Marion Cheezo, whose also in North Bay. See you gurls soon, from your buddies in Wask., Maureen, Alice, Martina, and Shannon. Peace!

Another Birthday wish going out to our friend Alice Gull (Wask.), on April 20th. We hope you enjoy your special day and have fun. Celebrate all you want, you deserve it. Once

CLASSIFIEDS

again, Happy Birthday, and many more to come. From your buddies, MaurJo and Shanchan. (Wask.)

Happy Birthday to my aunt/godmother, Lily Salt-Lameboy on April 16. I love you so much. Enjoy your special day as you ARE. .From Your nephew/Godson, Anthony Douglas Napash (House).

Happy Birthday to my son/big brother, Anthony Napash, on May 4. Have fun on your birthday, love always, Mom: Sharon and baby brother: David'sh Napash.

I would like to wish a Happy 4th Birthday to my Nephew, Anthony Douglas Napash, on May 4 (Chisasibi)... Hope you enjoy your birthday with so much fun ..Not being more YaaYim-C-Waahkin... Be a good boy on your special day ..Don't give your Mommy a hard time ...I love you so much.. With love, your Auntie Louisa and Baby Girl (XoXoXoX).

Happy birthday to our little girl, Joni Avril Mary Boudrias-Masty, on April 24th. You make us laugh, you make us smile. Thank God for little girls. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, and your big sister, Briana xoxoxo (Whap). P.S. Enjoy your birthday cake!

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my one and only son, Kohl Mason Ernest Ottereyes, on May 18th, 2005. I want you to know that I love you with all my heart and soul. Five years ago, I held you in my arms, you were so tiny and you looked so innocent. I loved you from the day I first held you and I will love you always, my little boy. You will always be my little boy, but you are growing up to be a fine young man.....and smart too. I want the whole, wide world to know that you are the sweetest boy. Happy 5th Birthday my boy!....With love always, Mom xoxoxox.

Happy Belated Birthday to Miss Carole-Ann'sh Ottereyes on April 4, 2005. Hope you had a blast with your cake and gifts. Wishing you many more birthdays to come. Lub you and we miss you! Love, Harry & Queenie Ottereyes (Hull).

Happy 1st Birthday to Gabriel Ottereyes (Behk) on April 20, 2005. Enjoy your birthday cake and try not to make a big mess for Mom and Dad! (LOL). Hey Behk, start walking, so you can easily play with the other kids. We love you and miss you Behk! Love, Uncle Harry & Queenie Ottereyes (Hull).

I want to say Happy Belated Birthday to Mr. Clean who is somewhere in the Cree Nation. You probably know who you are. Mr Clean turned 25 years old on March 23, 2005. After 25 wonderful years, he has grown to be quite a gentleman when he wants to be. Hope you enjoyed your night at the concert because you really deserved it. Once again Happy Birthday.....From the gang.

I would like to wish my son, Brayven, a very Happy 9th Birthday on May 1, 05. I love you very much my boy & I will always be very proud to be your mom & don't you ever forget that, okay?! Also I would like to wish a very Happy 7th Birthday to my only girl, Breena on May 22nd, 05 (The mighty Precious One). Love Mommy.

"Happy Birthday Daddy" I would like to say happy birthday to my Daddy. Robert Baribeau. .I love you dad, you are one special dad. I know I don't tell you everyday or very often that I love you, but I really love you...even though sometimes you like to tease me, :D. I hope you have fun on your very special day...don't stay too long in Montreal, spend your birthday in the bush, (don't worry we won't give you rocks this time)...lol. I always think about the times that we used to have fun when we went on trips. I know you like to spend your money on us, even if u try to hide it I know u love buying us stuff....lol. I know you think I don't love you, but I really do. I'm very proud to have you as my daddy.... Once again "HAPPY BIRTHDAY." Love: your little Poopsie (Nikki)lol...xoxoxoxox.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my sister, Kimbrley Happyjack, on April 30. Happy birthday Kim and many more to come and I miss you a lot and I love you. From: your sister, Eden.

We would like to wish, Emmett MacLeod, a happy birthday on April 23. So how many candles this year? Hope you enjoy your day and best wishes to you. We love you very much, from your wife and kids (Nicholas, Ethan and baby girl Katelyn).xxxxx.

I would like to wish my wife, Flora Erless, a Happy Birthday on the 23rd of April. I want to wish you a Happy Birthday, and many more to come. I don't know how old you are, but it doesn't matter. Love always, Kenneth (all the way from EM1).

We want to wish our Mom, Flora Erless, a Happy Birthday. We love you very much, and you're a great Mom. Even though Dad isn't always there, you're doing a great job taking care of us. Love always, from Wendel, Karlene, Riley-John, and your baby, Coby. Xoxoxoxoxo.

PERSONAL - 300

I was unable to go and pay my last respects for a member in my community, and I'd like to express my thoughts of heartfelt sympathy to the Wapachee Family on the loss of their son, brother, uncle, husband, and father. You are in my thoughts and prayers during this time of sadness and hardship. I pray for happiness within your family, as you share your memories of times together, and also the love you have known from Henry. With time and its way of healing, I pray with deepest sympathy, that time will bring you peace and strength. May you find comfort in knowing that others deeply care. My prayers also go out to the Ouje-Bougoumou Police, in losing a co-worker and a friend. Brenda St.Pierre.

Happy Mother's day to our Great Grandma Jacqueline Napash and our grandma, Katherine Salt. We love you from the bottom of our Little Hearts. You mean the world to us, from your Great Grandson/Grandson, Anthony & David Napash, Alexander & Harry'sh Lameboy and Baby Eshgosh Daisy (Chisasibi).

We, the Jonah/Trapper children would like to wish the women in our lives greetings of happiness on MOTHER'S Day to our Grandmother, Edna Jonah; Great-Grandmother, Elizabeth Diamond; Aunts, Marlene, Valarie, Georgette and Rebecca; and our dear Aunt on mom's side, Hannah Moses. Miss you all..Hugs and Kisses, LOVE Tyrone, Adrian, Garon and Rayna in Thunder Bay ON, soon to be Alberta, bye now and take care. (P.S) Tyrone would like to wish his Great Aunt Queenie a great "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY."

We would like to congratulate our friend, Constable Martina Cowbot (Wask.) on her graduation from the police training at Ecole Nationale de Police in Nicolet, QC. Congratulations! Felicitations! From your friends in Waskaganish.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the women I know in Waskaganish a "Happy Mother's Day," to Hannah Moses my sis-inlaw, Sandra Whiskeychan, Corrine Wiestche, Louise Trapper-Gilpin, Shirley Moar, Florance Visitor and not least my good friend somewhere out in Cree land Colleen P.Longchap. Being a mom is the hardest job that anyone could have and it takes the greatest ones to be one! Happy Mother's Day all of you....Hope to see you all one day soon..take care now. From a friend:) all the way in Thunder Bay ON.

We would like to say Happy Mother's day to all the mothers in Kawawa!!! You are all beautiful and intelligent women. Have a great day! Gregory, Joanne, Mark and Annika from Montreal!

I would like to congratulate my childhood friend and my future maid of honor, Martina Cowboy from graduating from Nicolette. I'm so proud of you. And I'm really grateful to have you as my best friend. Words cannot express how proud I am of you. Anyways, at least I know you'll make my cell comfy for me when I get back to Wask....lol...From your childhood friend Angie Ottereyes ...soon to be Capissisit!...lol.

Congratulations to my bro-in-law Andrew...umm...I mean Officer Murdoch. He just graduated from Nicolette. I'm really proud of you bro! From Germain.

To: Kimbrley Happyjack, I wish you were here with me. I miss you sooooo much, and I love you soooo much my beautiful sissy. I wish I was there with you. God, I miss you guys. Take good care of your kids. From: your sister, Eden Happyjack.

I want to let my "piece of meat" know how much I love him. He makes every day for me a good day and I hope to be with him for as long as I can. Love you!!! Xxx J.J.Matoush- Montreal.

Hi-Hi. My name is Randy Blackjacket and I am looking for individual people that want to join the drum society. We are especially looking for youths that are willing to travel. For more info email me at homelessness49@hotmail.com.

CRTC

CRTC PUBLIC HEARING

The CRTC invites you to attend a public hearing commencing on 6 June 2005 at 9:30 a.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 6700 Fallsview Blvd., Niagara Falls, Ont., to consider the following applications. 17. JAMES BAY (CAMPEMENT EASTMAIN-1), Qc. **CLUB SOCIAL LA GRANDE** requests authority to obtain a licence to operate a radiocommunication distribution undertaking to serve the above mentioned locality. For more information, please consult the notice of public hearing. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATION: Campement Eastmain-1, James Bay, Qc. If you wish to support or oppose an application, you may use **ONE** of the following options: select the link to the "*Intervention/Comments Form*" found under the "Public Proceedings" section of the CRTC's web site; or write to the CRTC, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0N2; or send a fax to the Secretary General at (819) 994-0218. Your intervention must be received at the CRTC on or before **12 May 2005** and **MUST** include the proof that you sent a copy to the applicant. All information submitted, including your email address, name and any other personal information as provided, will be posted on the CRTC's web site. For more information: 1-877-249-CRTC (Toll-free) or Internet: http://www.crtc.gc.ca. Reference document: Notice of Public Hearing CRTC 2005-4

AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE DU CRTC

Canada

Le CRTC tiendra une audience publique à partir du 6 juin 2005 à 9h30, à Embassy Suites Hotel, 6700, boul. Fallsview, Niagara Falls (Ont.), afin d'étudier les demandes qui suivent. 17. BAIE JAMES (CAMPEMENT EASTMAIN-1) (Qc). **CLUB SOCIAL LA GRANDE** demande l'autorisation d'obtenir une licence visant l'exploitation d'une entreprise de distribution de radiocommunication pour desservir la localité susmentionnée. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez consulter l'avis d'audience publique. EXAMEN DE LA DEMANDE : Campement Eastmain-1, Baie James (Qc). Si vous voulez appuyer ou vous opposer à une demande, vous pouvez utiliser **UNE** des façons suivantes : utiliser le lien du « *Formulaire d'interventions/observations* » à la section « Instances publiques » du site web du CRTC; ou écrire au CRTC, Ottawa (Ont.), K1A 0N2; ou envoyer un fax à la Secrétaire générale (819) 994-0218. Vos observations doivent être reçues par le CRTC au plus tard le **12 mai 2005** et **DOIVENT** inclure la preuve qu'une copie a été envoyée au requérant. Toute information soumise, incluant votre adresse courriel, votre nom ainsi que tout autre renseignement personnel que vous nous aurez fourni, sera disponible sur le site Internet du CRTC. Pour plus d'informations : 1-877-249-CRTC (sans frais) ou Internet : http://www.crtc.gc.ca. Document de référence : Avis d'audience publique CRTC 2005-4

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes

The Last Line

Dammed if you do, dammed if you don't

by Ndiamon

I know a bit of what it's like to be chief. I feel their pain. I first realized this while trying to enjoy a night of cordials at the Cabarrete night club in glamorous Chibougamau several weeks back.

There I was, settling in with a cold drink, getting ready for the show when a young Cree gentleman approached. "You're from the Nation! I like the Nation!" I thanked him politely, hoping he'd leave after I noticed his head was clearly full of booze and a long list of ideas for the betterment of the Cree people.

From what I could decipher from his heavily slurred speech, he had just arrived from Chisasibi and had learned a few things of that community's plight. "You have to do something! They're in danger! If those dams break, they'll be under hundreds of feet of water!"

His voice almost broke from the emotions he was feeling. I nodded and shifted one seat over, hoping he had said his piece. Instead he sat down beside me and repeated what he had said almost word for word. "I know, man, I know," I said.

He must have figured I was hard of hearing or a slow learner because he again repeated what he had said. I didn't want to appear rude and snobbish so I sat there nodding and hmmming when I thought it appropriate to do so. Our conversation was in serious danger of dragging on past closing time so we told him we were off to another bar, far, far away from this place. "You have to help them, man!" he pleaded as we headed for the door. "I'll get on it right away, man." I said and walked out.

I imagined him drunkenly slumping into his seat by the video lottery terminals, his mind at ease, now that finally someone was on the case so that the people of Chisasibi could again sleep soundly. His mission accomplished, he could finally concentrate on the task of charming that ravishing girl from Ouje-Bougoumou.

My years of travel through Cree territory, its streets, its restaurants and its bars has taught me that Cree Chiefs get harassed and accosted all the time. I once saw former chief Billy Diamond being hounded by some drunken stumblebum on a Waskaganish street. It sounded like the man wasn't too happy with Diamond's administrative techniques and he wasn't going to let pass a golden opportunity to tell Diamond just what he thought. Billy seemed terribly annoyed and finally snapped, "Talk to me when you're sober!" The man stopped, and just stared as his chief walked off.

It's easy to see why chiefs and others of their ilk don't spend their off hours in bars where normal everyday Crees drink. Their supporters wouldn't stop extolling their many virtues and asking for free drinks. Their enemies wouldn't shut up about what a crappy job they were doing and asking for free drinks. They just can't win.

As journalists, we don't have it as bad as our chiefs. It is similar in the sense that we also have our critics and we also get the pats on our backs. But we also expect plenty of free drinks. For some reason, however, many people think that we make as much money and have as much power and influence as our politicians. Maybe that would be the case in a perfect world, but the last time I checked, Utopia existed only in a book.

Speaking of which, the Utopia we were promised if only we would sign the deal to end all deals is slowly coming about. The $70 million cheque arrived as scheduled but the extra millions supposed to be included as per the Funding Formula apparently existed only in the Grand Council's rosy presentations when the deal was first presented. According to an insider who was present at the meeting when the amount was revealed, many a chiefly head dropped in extreme disappointment when they were told that the extra money for this year was barely $1.5 million.

On paper, that amount may look pretty rich, but my sources say the amount barely covers our lawyers' and consultants' expenses.

Alas, hope springs eternal. According to the Grand Council soothsayers, those measly amounts can only increase as the years pass. But that's only if more and more outside companies extract our precious resources and give us the tiny percentages they promised.

I know what it's like being chief. I share their pain. I realized this when I heard of their collective reaction when they realized that they had been duped into believing that Utopia didn't have to exist as a work of mere fiction.

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For more information on registrations, rules and regulations, distances and prizes:
Contact the Nemaska Recreation Department at
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Stay tuned for the 2005 Cree Nation Fitness Challenge poster coming soon to your communities after goose break.